

Remarks

Both the specification and the claims have been amended to attain consistency between the claim language and the specification, and the claims have been amended pursuant to the Detailed Action to address the Examiner's objections and § 112 rejections. Specifically, references to a "passage" have been changed to "air duct" and references to "portal" have been changed to "nozzle". Further, the specification now refers to first and second sections, 12 and 14 respectively, rather than upper and lower sections. The drawings have not been amended because the references to "passage" have been amended to read "air duct" and the air duct is indicated at 24 in the Figures and discussed in paragraph [0016].

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,427,502 to Hudson. It is respectfully submitted that Hudson does not anticipate claim 1. Claim 1 states that the fan shroud has an air passage in a surface thereof and that the pre-cleaner is mounted to the fan shroud such that the aspirator port is in direct communication with the passage via the nozzle. Hudson discloses an aspirator 22 that is a separate part that is mounted to a fan shroud 10. Further the pre-cleaner of Hudson is attached to a hose (un-numbered) which communicates with the port 34 on the aspirator. One of the advantages of the present invention is that it eliminates the extra parts required by the Hudson design.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 2-5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudson. For the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1 it is submitted that claims 2-5 are also patentable over Hudson. Hudson does not disclose an air duct molded in the shroud because the aspirator 22 is a separate part from the shroud 10. the air duct of Hudson is formed by the two aspirator housing parts 30 and 32 which are separate from the shroud 10. It is also noted that the part 30 of Hudson does not have a channel therein, it is a substantially flat part having a nozzle 34.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic conference would be useful in furthering the present application toward allowance, the undersigned attorney would welcome such a call.

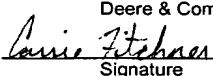
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Respectfully,

  
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